

India

1. Year Achieved Independence: 1947

2. Political Institutions: For all of its post-independence history India has used a parliamentary system based on the Westminster system. There are two legislative chambers, the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected to five year terms (the president may also appoint two additional members to represent the Anglo-Indian community). Members of the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by state legislative assemblies to a six year term, with 1/3rd of the seats renewed every two years. (The president may also appoint up to 12 additional members). India has a president who is elected by an electoral college consisting of the members of the two national legislative chambers combined with the members of the various state assemblies.

3. Lok Sabha Electoral System:

- 1952 and 1957: Plurality rule in single-seat constituencies was used for most constituencies alongside about 90 multi-seat constituencies (Colomer 2004). The multi-seat constituencies had 2 to 3 seats and were elected on a block vote basis.
- 1962-: Plurality rule in single-seat constituencies

4. Electoral History: Elections for a fully elected House of Represent were held on the following years.

Election Date	Polity Score *	CLEA Data Release
Oct. 25, 1951-Feb. 21, 1952	9	
Feb. 24-June 9, 1957	9	
Feb. 16-June 6, 1962	9	
Feb. 15-Feb. 28, 1967	9	
Mar. 1-Mar. 13, 1971	9	
Mar. 16-Mar. 20, 1977	8	√
Jan. 3-Jan. 6, 1980	8	√
Dec. 24-Dec. 28, 1984	8	√
Nov. 22-Nov. 26, 1989	8	√
May. 20-June 15, 1991	8	√
Apr. 27-May 14, 1996	9	√
Feb. 16-Mar. 7, 1998	9	√
Sep. 5-Oct. 3, 1999	9	√
Apr. 20-May 10, 2004	9	√

Notes: *The Polity Score ranges from -10 to 10, from least democratic to most democratic.

Data come from the Polity IV dataset: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/polity/data/>.

5. Sources on Electoral History:

Colomer, Joseph M. ed. 2004. *Handbook of Electoral System Choice*. New York: Palgrave.

Hicken, Allen and Yuko Kasuya. 2003. "A Guide to the Constitutional Structures and Electoral Systems of Asia." *Electoral Studies* 22(1): 121-51.

Nohlen, Dieter, Florian Grotz and Christof Hartman, eds. *Elections in Asia and the Pacific: A Data Handbook, Vol. 1*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

6. Sources of Electoral Data:

- 1977-2004: Data collected from *the Election Commission of India*.